9th March 1955]

Hostels bearing the names of castes and religions

* 1195 *Q.*—SRI V. MUTHU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are subsidising or themselves running hostels bearing the names of castes or religions; and

(*b*) if so, whether the Government are considering the question of changing the names of those hostels?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The answer is in the affirmative."

After Mr. Speaker had passed on to the next question, Sri V. Muthu stood up in his seat for putting a supplementary question.

MR. SPEAKER :—" We have passed on to the next question. அடுத்த கேள்விக்கிப் போய்விட்டோமே ! "

Retrenchment of Harijan employees from the Civil Supplies Department, Malabar

* 1196 *Q.*—SRI O. KORAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Harijans were retrenched from the Civil Supplies Department in Malabar after decontrol of foodstuffs; and

(*b*) how many of them were absorbed in other departments of the Government?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Four Harijan employees were retrenched from the Civil Supplies Department in Malabar district after the decontrol of rice and three out of them have so far been absorbed in other departments of the Government."

SRI O. KORAN :—" May I know what the Government propose to do with those who are not yet provided with employment—whether they will be given preference when vacancies occur in other departments? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir. The highest priority will be given to them. I have already explained that many times."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" The Hon. Minister said that four Harijan employees were retrenched. I do not know whether for this purpose the watchmen employed in the godowns of the Civil Supplies Department are also treated as ' employees ', and if so, the number retrenched would be much greater. May I know 9-20 from the Hon. Minister whether these persons would be absorbed in a.m. some other departments? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" They will certainly be absorbed as far as possible. About the number retrenched, I would suggest to the hon. Member to put a separate question."